

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of study, statements of the problems, objectives of study, significance of study, scope and limitation of study.

A. Background of the Study

Literature is big result of human civilization, in this life human and literature are living side by side. We realize that most events in our life are reflected in literature. As one of human's creations, literature depicts what human's life is like. Culture and its values give form of literature.

Life teaches men human values, these values guide men to enter social life and develop them to practice good life. One of the ways to study these values is from literature as a product of culture. In relation to this Wellek and Warren say literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation. Such traditional literary devices as symbolism and meter are social in their very nature. They are conventions and norms which could have arisen only in society. But, furthermore, literature "imitates" "life" and "life" is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary "imitation" (Wellek and Warren, 1949:3,89).

While according to Carter (2006:41) A literary work expresses an author's mind and personality and that it also tells some essential truth about human life.

As one of literature form which is popular among the other forms of literature to this day, the novel keeps its leading position as the genre which produces many innovations. Novel gives the readers enjoyment, besides that readers can get the other benefit, they can learn about life from it.

The story of the novel can be fictional or true stories. Perhaps literature is definable not according to whether it is fictional or 'imaginative', but because it uses Language in peculiar ways. Language has significant role in literature where literature transforms and intensifies ordinary language, deviates systematically from everyday speech (Eagleton Terry, 2003:2).

This idea corresponds to the role of language as a medium of literature Siswantoro (2010:103) says that the beauty of a literary work is supported very much by the writer's ability in exploiting reflection of language so it leads to power and aesthetic work. Language is a literary medium but not all languages used in daily communication can be accepted as language supporting literature. Literary language is special language , it is language which has been bended by the writer in order to reach aesthetic impression and softness of sense.

Literary work has developed from time to time. By the born of some new authors the literary work has been enriched. In Every periode new authors are born and they show their own figures and personality. Some of them have shown their own writing characteristic that are different to the other authors' characteristic. Most authors tend to use the same style in their writing again and again, it makes their work easily to identify, especially to the author's readers.

The big authors has clear characteristic which will be illustrated in his or her works.

One of the famous world authors is Ernest Miller Hemingway. He has written many famous stories, novella and novels with his own style. Hemingway's language style in *The Old Man and the Sea* is simple and natural on the surface, but actually deliberate and artificial as Xie Yaochen says

“The language is rarely emotional. Rather, it controls emotions: it holds them in.”It is unique. Now “Hemingway style” is widely used to refer to the kind of prose writing which is characterized by simplicity, directness, clarity, freshness and naturalness” (Xie Yaochen, 2008:vol 1).

As a well known authors in the literary world, Ernest Hemingway has a great number of readers and gets respect of literary critics. Through his writing masterpiece, *The Old Man and the Sea*, in 1954 he was awarded noble prize for literature (Hemingway Ernest, 1964:1). Many scholars have studied and analysed his works. They have alternatively dealt with analysis through various theories and approaches.

My thesis will focus on his novella *The Old Man and the Sea*. It is a well known fictional story which has been analysed countlessly times by many researchers. The influence of Hemingway's style is great all over the world. *The Old Man and the Sea* is full of facts, most of which comes from Hemingway own experience. Hemingway's uniqueness writing style in his novella has attractked the writer to study and analyse it.

Although there have been many scholars analysing this novella, this thesis will add to analyse the novella from different view to the previous studies. The

writer will analyse this novel from its style of symbol used in the novel by descriptive qualitative method.

This novel describes the optimism of the main character towards life. The main character (the old man) has strong principle toward life. He has values such as faith, courage, self confidence and respect on his life. This novel tells about struggles of an old fisherman who sailed alone in the far out open sea. He thought the the day always gave men different chances, after his 84 days fishless he was sure it was the fortunate day for him to catch a big fish. Despite his physical weakness and being isolated from his close friend, he kept with his faith that the weather would bring him to meet the big fish. It is finally true he could catch a huge fish after their three days struggle. It was an extraordinary struggle which in it the writer implied the important human values. After his successful work on this fish, the old man still faced the next struggle where he had to protect what he had gotten. It was told that in the way home bringing the fish he had gotten, some sharks destroyed it. The old man had to endure facing these unbalanced opponents, but the result was that he should let his big fish eaten by those sharks just skeleton left. This condition didn't make him hopeless, he continued his life with a new hope to struggle to the next big fish.

As a qualified literature this novel provides many aspects of language which are attracted to analyze. This novel is rich of intrinsic and extrinsic aspects. One of these aspects is symbol, symbol is a thing that everybody faces, meets and makes interpretation of it and that's why the writer is attracted to talk and analyze

it. Beside that, *The Old Man and the Sea* gives a good learning from some life values which are reflected in the novel.

B. Problems of the Study

Regarding to the topic that is going to be discussed, this paper addresses the following problems:

1. What symbols are used in Hemingway's novel *The Old Man and the Sea* ?
2. How Is Optimistic life reflected in symbol used in novel *The Old Man and the Sea* ?

C. Objectives of the Study

There are two kinds of objectives in this study; they are general objectives and specific objectives as described below.

1. General Objectives of the Study

In general this study aims at improving writer's knowledge, especially in the area of language style, as well as to put into application the theories and concepts of literature viewed from stylistic approach by conducting a research. The study focuses on the style of Hemingway in using symbols in his novel *The Old Man and the Sea*.

2. Specific Objectives of the Study

1. To identify symbols used in the novel *The Old Man and the Sea*.
2. To analyze symbol reflecting optimistic life used in the novel *The Old Man and the Sea*.

D. Benefit of the Study

The writer expects this study gives some benefit such as the following:

1. Theoretical benefit

Theoretically the result of this research is expected to be able to help the authors of the novel to develop their style through various aspects of language and develop their works to build good character of the readers through good messages that is containing human values which are valuable to use as a motivation and as a guide for their life.

2. Practical Benefit

- a) The result of this study can be used as additional knowledge to improve the students' understanding of language style of the great world authors.
- b) The result of the study is expected to be able to improve the ability of students in studying English through literature.
- c) This study is also useful to anyone who is analysing novel. For him or her this study can be used as a guider.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study is only concerned with the novel entitled *The Old Man and the Sea* which is used as the source of data of symbols reflecting optimistic life. The discussion of the study covers:

- 1. The identification of symbols used in the novel *The Old Man and the Sea*.
- 2. The identifications of symbols reflecting optimistic life used in the novel *The Old Man and the Sea*.